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RURAL DISTRICT OF BROADWOODWIDGER

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

For the year ended 31st December 1963.

BROADWOODWIDGER PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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of the
Medical Officer of Health.

Drake Road,
Tavistock.
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BROADWOODWIDGER RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1963.

Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year ended 31st December 1963, presented in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry.

The Registrar Generals' Census for 1961 is now to hand, and I am including certain information from this Report, as I feel that it will be of interest to you:

The population of the district remains virtually the same as that for 1951, with a total of 2,029 persons, divided into sexes as follows:

	Males.	Females.			
	1,029	1000	=	2,029	
Over 65 years of age.....	93	120	=	213	(10% of population)

The only noticable change in the distribution of the population in the six parishes is that whilst North Petherwin has lost a total of 35 residents, St.Giles-in-the-Heath. has gained 50.

There are no hospitals, institutions or military establishments in the area, and the population are all contained in private households. The Census records that only one dwelling contains more than one household.

On the night of the Census 586 households were recorded as having had at least one occupier present, and of this number:

124 were without cold water inside the house.
242 were without hot water inside the house.
258 had no fixed bath.
234 had no water closet.

General Statistics.

Area (in acres)	29,295.
Population - 1951 Census	2,028.
Population - 1961 Census	2,029.
Estimated population - mid 1963 ...	2,030.
Parishes	six.
Number of inhabited houses	612
Rateable value	£22,277.
Product of the Penny Rate	£87. 14s. 3d.
Loan Debt	£69,914. 18s. 2d.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.	Male.	Female.		Total.
Legitimate	17	18		
Illegitimate	1	-		
	18	18	=	36.
Deaths.	7	7	-	14.

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LIVE BIRTHS		England & Wales
Number	36	
Rate per 1000 population	17.7	18.2
Corrected birth rate	20.0	
Illegitimate live births % of total live births	2.7%	

STILLBIRTHS		
Number	nil	
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	-	17.3
Total live and still births	36	

INFANT MORTALITY RATES		
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	nil	
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	-	20.9
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	-	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	-	
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per 1000 total live births)	-	
Early Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week per 1000 total live births)	-	
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	-	

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	-

DEATHS		
Number	14	
Rate per 1000 population	6.8	12.2
Corrected death rate	8.1	

Year.	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate.
1959	2,020	11.4	10.3
1960	2,040	15.7	5.9
1961	2,010	13.9	10.4
1962	2,020	13.3	5.9
1963	2,030	17.7	6.8

The Chief Causes of Death were as follows:

Cancer	2
Vascular disease.....	1
Coronary diseases	2
Other heart diseases....	4
Other circulatory disease	2
Nephritis	1
Other ill-defined diseases	1
Accidental	1

Age at Death Table.

Age at Death.		Male.	Female.
Under 1 year	...	-	-
1 - 4 years	...	-	-
5 - 14 "	...	-	-
15 - 24 "	...	-	-
25 - 34 "	...	-	-
35 - 44 "	...	1	-
45 - 54 "	...	-	-
55 - 64 "	...	1	1
65 - 74 "	...	2	2
75 years & over	...	3	4
Totals:		7	7

General Provision of Health Services

The general provision of the Health Services remained as in previous years and no complaints were received.

Infectious Diseases

Infectious diseases notified by Medical Practitioners.

Ages.	Measles. M.	Measles. F.
Under 1 year	-	1
1. "	1	1
2. years	1	1
3. "	-	-
4. "	1	-
5 - 9 "	4	3
10 - 14 "	-	-
15 - 25 "	1	-
25 and over	-	-
Age unknown	-	-
Totals:-	8	6

Infectious diseased notified by School Authorities.

	Chicken Pox.	Measles
Broadwoodwidger.	-	9
St.Giles in the Heath	2	-
Totals:	2	9

Tuberculosis

No deaths were recorded during the year from this cause, and no new cases were added to the Register.

At the end of the year there were seven cases on the Register as follows:

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.
3	2	-	2

My thanks are due to Mr.Judd for preparing that section of the report which he actually administers. It is with sincere regret that I learn from his report that this will be our last return of our stewardship. My association with your Council over all these years has always been most cordial, and one has to wonder whether these "improvements" make, in the long run, for the betterment of the people. However, I would thank you all for the ready hearing I receive at all times and the keen interest your members have always taken in the public health.

I am, Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant.

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,

During the year there have been considerable extensions of the North Devon Water Board's mains and of electricity lines in the district which has brought a better standard of living to many inhabitants.

At the time of writing this report we have heard of the decision of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to transfer the Parish of North Petherwin and the greater part of the Parish of Werrington to Cornwall on the 1st April 1965. This will mean the ending of Broadwoodwidger Rural Council as a separate entity and the last Annual Report which the Council will receive. After almost thirty years service with the Council the break will be a sad one and one can only hope that the inhabitants of the district will derive benefit from the re-organisation.

Thirty years ago there were no Council houses, no piped water and practically no electricity in the district. There was no Town and Country Planning and virtually no control over building as there were no Building Byelaws.

At that time the wages of the Agricultural worker was 30/- a week and the standard of living was low. It was common when visiting the schools to see many of the children poorly clothed and badly shod, now, happily, this is a rare occurrence.

On the debit side anyone interested in Public Health must be concerned about the danger to health from the increasing use of toxic chemicals in the control of insect pests and the use of antibiotics and other drugs in the treatment of milking cows and other animals to be slaughtered.

Many of the chemicals used as sprays for standing crops contain powerful chemical compounds of the chlorinated hydro-carbon group which remain active in the soil for a very considerable period and persist in the fatty tissue of animals.

Meat is probably more tender, certainly less fat and decidedly less flavoursome than it was thirty years ago.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

No Council houses were built during the year but a tender for the erection of two aged persons bungalows at Hellescott was accepted. There are 40 Council houses situated in the following Parishes:-

Broadwoodwidger	10
North Petherwin	10
St.Giles-in-the-Heath....	6
Virginstowe	2
Werrington	12.

Private enterprise houses completed during the year ..... 2.

HOUSE PURCHASE & HOUSING ACT, 1959.

Discretionary Grants.

No applications were received this year.

Discretionary grants have been paid in respect of 26 dwelling houses. The cost of the schemes has been £14,004 and the total grants paid by the Council £6,042. 10s. 0d.

Dwellings owner occupied	10
Dwellings tenanted	16.

Standard Grants.

Applications were one less than last year:-

Standard grants offered	7
Schemes completed during year	7
Grants paid during year	£955. 0s. 0d.

Standard grants have been paid in respect of 23 dwelling-houses; the total cost of the schemes has been £7,301. 13s. 6d. and the total grants paid £3,053. 3s. 7d.

The properties modernised have been:-

Owner occupied farmhouses	8
Tenanted farmhouses	1
Agricultural worker's cottages	8
Non-agricultural houses	6

RENT ACT, 1957

Since the introduction of the Rent Act 1957 no applications have been received for a Certificate of Disrepair.

PLANS

The following plans have been approved by the Council under their Building Byelaws:

Additions and alterations to existing dwellings	11
Agricultural buildings	6
Garages	4
New dwelling houses	4
Workshop	1
Petrol Filling Station	1
Caravan Sites	3

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year:-

   (a) Number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts 25
   (b) Inspections made for the purpose 42

2. Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. Nil.

3. Dwelling houses not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..... 14.

4. Remedy of defects during the year:-

   (a) With informal notices 16
   (b) Formal notices under the Housing Acts ..... Nil
   (c) Formal notice under Public Health Act, 1936 1

5. Houses found to be overcrowded ..... Nil.

FOOD SUPPLIES

Bakeries.

There are no bakeries but a good delivery service is provided from Launceston.

Slaughter Houses.

There are no slaughter-houses or butchers shops in the district, but a good delivery service is provided.

Grocers.

There are seven general stores from which groceries are sold, only two of these are of any size. There is an increase in mobile grocers store vans in the district. Several were inspected and found to be kept clean.

Ice-Cream

There are six retailers of pre-packed ice cream.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

The following samples were taken under the above Act during the year by the County Inspector:

44 Samples of Milk - All genuine.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse is collected monthly in a covered refuse lorry from all villages and hamlets and those houses bordering the principal roads in the district.

FACTORIES.

The only factory registered under the Factories Act, 1961, is for motor vehicle repairs. It was not found necessary to serve any notice.

WATER SUPPLIES

Mr.Young, District Engineer to the North Devon Water Board has submitted the following report on progress in your district during the year:-

"Adequate supplies have been maintained throughout the year from Ivyhouse Reservoir which is supplied from the Board's main works at Prewley.

A mains supply scheme from Langdon Cross to Clubworthy has been completed as also has a scheme from Coombeshead Cross to Virginstow.

Materials have been ordered for a mains supply scheme from Yeolmbridge to Grovetown.

Surveys are in hand for extensions from St.Giles School to Chapmans Well and Northcott, Bullapit Bridge to Hessacott and Tamestown and several smaller extensions.

Samples have been consistantly good and supply has been uninterrupted."

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council for the support and ready hearing which they have always given me and for the very happy relationship which has existed between the present and previous Councils since I have been in their service.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant.

T. A. Judd.

Public Health Inspector.